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by Anne Milan

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p}	preliminary
^{r}	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E}	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Diversity of young adults living with their parents

by Anne Milan

Overview of the study

This study examines the extent to which young adults aged 20 to 29 live with their parents across various ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics. The results are based on data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) as well as data from previous censuses.

- Of the 4.3 million young adults aged 20 to 29 in 2011, 42% (or 1.8 million) lived with their parents. This compared with 27% in 1981.
- Among those who were aged 20 to 24, the proportion living with their parents rose from 42% in 1981 to 59% in 2011. Among those aged 25 to 29, the proportion rose from 11% to 25%.
- Over one-half (52%) of young adults who belonged to a visible minority group lived with their parents, compared with 40% among those who did not belong to a visible minority group. The proportions of young adult living with their parents also varied across mother tongue, religious affiliation, and immigration status.
- In 2011, 43% of all young adults living with their parents in Canada were in Toronto, Montréal or Vancouver (with close to one-quarter living in Toronto only). In comparison, one-third (33%) of young adults who did not live with their parents were in these three CMAs.
- In 2011, close to one-quarter (24%) of young adults who lived with their parents were working full-year and full-time. At the same time, 90% reported having no responsibility for household payments.

Introduction

Individuals in their twenties may be engaged in a variety of activities including the pursuit of postsecondary education, finding employment or establishing a career, forming a couple relationship and/or having children. While such a myriad of life changes can provide many opportunities for young adults to grow and develop, there can also be many challenges during these years. Factors such as the high cost of education, economic uncertainty or difficulty finding adequate work, relationship dissolution or conflict, as well as indecision regarding their future all can influence the living arrangements of individuals in their twenties.

One response to their circumstances may be for young adults to live with their parents, either returning after an earlier departure or never leaving. For some young adults—and perhaps their parents as well—co-residence may be seen as a temporary solution until an economic or personal situation improves, while for others it may be a longer-term strategy. While parents and adult children sharing a home is generally perceived to be more beneficial for the younger generation, exchanges of support—financial, emotional or otherwise—could occur in both directions.

In the decades since 1981, there has been an overall upward trend in the proportion of young adults aged 20 to 29 living in the same home as their parents. At the same time, there has been an increase in the ethnocultural diversity of the overall population, which, in turn, can influence living-arrangement patterns. This study examines the extent to which parental co-residence is associated with the particular ethnocultural, socioeconomic and geographic characteristics of young adults.

Data for the population aged 20 to 29 in private households are primarily drawn from the 2011 National Household Survey or NHS (see *Data sources, methods and definitions*). The characteristics include immigrant status, age at immigration, visible minority status, mother tongue and religion. The geographies studied include residence in a rural area, population centre, and province or territory, as well as differences among young adults who live in the four most populous census metropolitan areas (CMAs): Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver and Calgary.[1] The socioeconomic characteristics explored for young adults include highest education level, school attendance, labour force participation and contribution to household finances.

About 4 in 10 young adults live with their parents

Although interest in young adults living with their parents has existed for much of the past century, it is often perceived as a relatively new phenomenon.[2] It has been noted, however, that young adults today take longer than previous generations to achieve their independence, as evidenced by their older ages when leaving school, leaving home, entering the labour market, forming a union and childbearing.[3]

These transitions are often linked. For example, previous research has shown the association between educational attainment and union formation as well as parenthood.[4]

Supporting the idea of a delayed transition to adulthood, the proportion of young adults aged 20 to 29 living with their parents increased in each census year between 1981 and 2006 from 27% to 43% (Chart 1);[5] it remained relatively stable in 2011 (42%).[6]

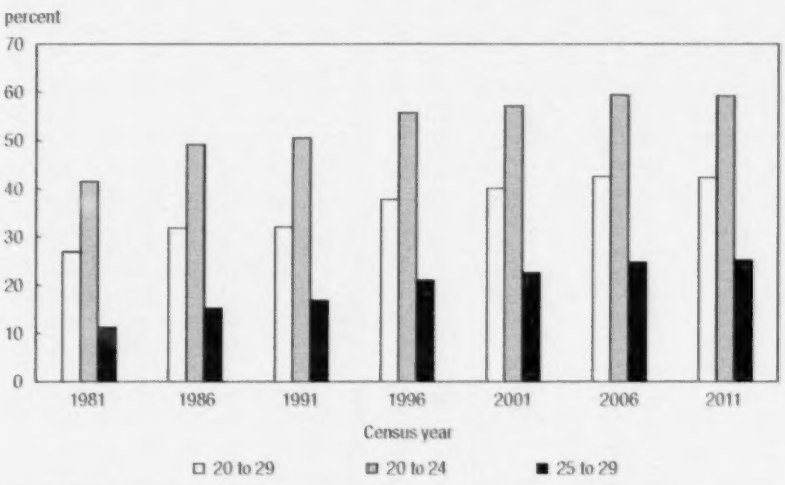
In total, more than 1.8 million of the 4.3 million young adults aged 20 to 29 in 2011 lived with their parents, accounting for the most common living arrangement for this age group (42%).[7] The remaining young adults did not share a home with their parents—some lived as part of a couple (30% of all young adults aged 20 to 29), with non-relatives only, including with a roommate (12%), alone (9%), as a lone parent (2%) or in other living arrangements (4%).[8]

The living arrangements of young adults differ for those in their early twenties compared with those in their late twenties, as well as for men compared with women. The majority of both men and women aged 20 to 24 co-resided with their parents in 2011 (59%), up from 42% in 1981. Among those aged 25 to 29, however, the proportions also rose, from 11% in 1981 to 25% in 2011.

The proportion was higher for men than women throughout their twenties (Chart 2). Among those who were aged 20 to 24 in 2011, 64% of young men lived with their parents, as did 55% of young women. In their late twenties, the shares were smaller, at 29% for men and 20% for women.

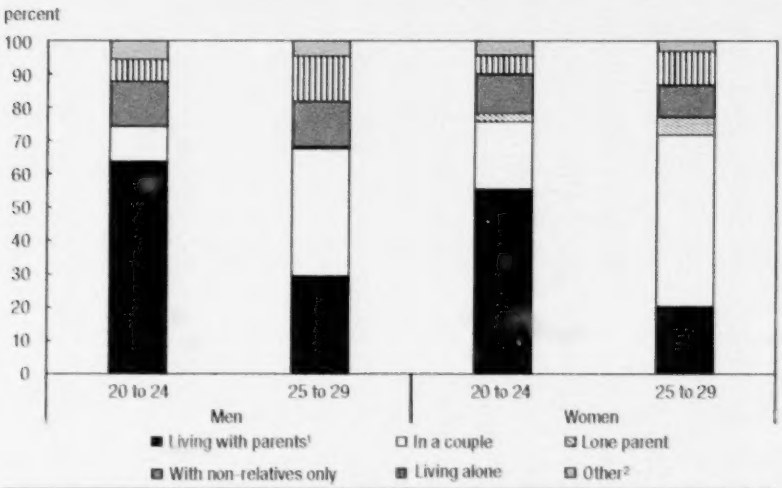
Lower proportions for women may reflect their tendency to form a union at a younger age than men[9] and, therefore, leave home at an earlier age to enter a relationship and establish their own household. In fact, 1 in 10 (10%) men and 2 in 10 (20%) women were living independently in a couple in their early twenties, and by their late

Chart 1
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 living with their parents, by age group, 1981 to 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1981 to 2011.

Chart 2
Distribution of the population aged 20 to 29 across types of living arrangements, by age group and sex, 2011



1. May also be part of a couple, with or without children, or a lone parent.
2. Other living arrangements include living with relatives, as well as children in census families for whom the parent is not the economic family reference person.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

twenties, this had increased to nearly 4 in 10 (38%) men and more than 5 in 10 (51%) women.

Given that ethnocultural characteristics can influence other co-residential living arrangements between generations (for example, the propensity of grandparents to live with their grandchildren),[10] it is also important to analyze the association between ethnocultural characteristics of young adults and parental co-residence.[11] The remainder of this study examines the prevalence of young adults living with their parents according to their ethnocultural and geographic and socioeconomic characteristics.[12] Readers should note that multivariate analysis, specifically, logistic regression, was also conducted in order to determine the impact of particular variables on the likelihood of living with parents, when controlling for other variables. The results supported the descriptive findings, therefore only the descriptive results are discussed below.[13]

Parental co-residence more prevalent among immigrants who arrived as children

Immigration characteristics are related to the prevalence of young adults living with their parents (Table 1). Although the proportion of immigrant[14] young adults in their twenties living with their parents (50%) was higher than the proportion of those who were non-immigrants (42%), there is considerable variation within the immigrant population of young adults, as some might have arrived in Canada as children, teens or younger adults. Since the NHS does not collect information on duration of living with parents, it is not possible to determine when the co-residence of young adults and their parents began, that is, whether their living arrangement existed prior to their entry into Canada or commenced after their arrival. However, age at immigration can indicate whether foreign-born individuals arrived in Canada while they were still children. Consequently, individuals who spent most of their childhood and adolescence in Canada may be more likely to live with their parents in proportions similar to those of the Canadian-born population in their twenties. Findings from a previous study found that individuals who immigrated as adults were less likely to live with their parents than those who arrived as children.[15]

In fact, close to two-thirds (65%) of young adults in their twenties who came to Canada under the age of 15 lived with their parents (Chart 3). This share was smaller for those who arrived in the country at the age 15 or over. Young adults who arrived in Canada during their twenties, particularly in their late twenties (6%), were proportionally far less likely to live with their parents, suggesting that these individuals immigrated as independent adults rather than with their parents.

The prevalence of living with parents also depended on the immigrant's country of birth. Immigrants in their twenties who were born in Hong Kong[16] (73%), South Korea (69%) and Taiwan (68%) had the highest proportions of parental co-residence. In contrast, young adults born in some countries had smaller shares living with their parents (for example, France, at 20%; and Mexico and Morocco, at 23% each).

While there was little difference between the proportions of young men and women living with their parents for certain countries of birth, such as France (23% of men and 17% of women), for other countries the sex differential was larger. For example, among young adults born in Algeria, 45% lived with their parents (65% of men and 32% of women). Similarly, while 57% of young adults who were born in Pakistan lived with their parents, the share was 71% for young men and 45% for young women. As has been noted, there could be cultural expectations related to parental co-residence that influence particular groups of young men and women in different ways.

Living with parents more common for some Asian youth

Visible minority status is one of the ethnocultural characteristics associated with the prevalence of young adults living with their parents.[17] In total, young adults aged 20 to 29 were more likely to live with their parents in 2011 if they belonged to a visible minority group (52%) than if they did not (40%).

There were differences within visible minority groups. Specifically, more than one-half of West Asian[18] (57%), Filipino (55%), Korean (55%), South Asian[19] (54%), Chinese (53%) and Southeast Asian[20] (52%) young adults in their twenties lived with their parents. In comparison, Latin American (42%) and Japanese (40%) young adults lived with their parents in proportions closer to the national average. These differences reflect the results by country of birth discussed above.

Table 1
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 who lived with their parents and distribution across ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics, 2011

	Percentage living with their parents	Distribution	
		living with their parents	not living with their parents
		percent	
Characteristics			
Sex	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Men	46.9	55.7	46.4
Women	37.7	44.3	53.6
Age group	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
20 to 24	59.7	70.8	35.0
25 to 29	24.8	29.2	65.0
Province/territory	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	44.7	1.4	1.3
Prince Edward Island	43.0	0.4	0.4
Nova Scotia	38.2	2.3	2.7
New Brunswick	37.2	1.7	2.1
Quebec	37.9	20.3	24.3
Ontario	50.7	46.0	32.7
Manitoba	40.2	3.5	3.8
Saskatchewan	30.0	2.3	3.9
Alberta	31.0	9.2	15.0
British Columbia	41.2	12.7	13.3
Yukon	33.6	0.1	0.1
Northwest Territories	34.8	0.1	0.2
Nunavut	38.2	0.1	0.1
Population centre indicator	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Rural area	50.4	16.4	11.8
Small population centre	35.3	9.2	12.4
Medium population centre	33.0	6.8	10.2
Large urban population centre	43.0	67.5	65.6
Selected census metropolitan areas	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Montréal	40.4	11.2	12.1
Toronto	56.5	23.8	13.4
Calgary	34.1	3.5	4.9
Vancouver	47.0	8.4	7.0
Elsewhere in Canada	38.4	53.1	62.6
Immigrant status	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Non-immigrants	42.2	80.1	80.4
Immigrants	49.7	19.6	14.5
Period of immigration			
2006 to 2011	27.9	3.4	6.4
Before 2006	59.4	16.2	8.1
Age at immigration			
Under 15	65.0	12.9	5.1
15 and over	34.0	6.6	9.4
Non-permanent residents	4.4	0.3	5.1
Visible minority status	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Visible minority	51.5	27.3	18.9
South Asian	54.3	7.0	4.3
Chinese	53.2	6.1	3.9
Black	47.4	3.7	3.0
Filipino	54.8	2.4	1.5
Latin American	42.0	1.5	1.5
Arab	43.8	1.5	1.4
Southeast Asian	51.8	1.5	1.0
West Asian	56.7	1.2	0.7

Table 1
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 who lived with their parents and distribution across ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics, 2011 (continued)

	Percentage living with their parents	Distribution	
		living with their parents	not living with their parents
		percent	
Characteristics			
Korean	54.6	0.9	0.5
Japanese	39.8	0.2	0.3
Visible minority, n.i.e.[1]	57.5	0.5	0.3
Multiple visible minorities	55.8	0.8	0.5
Not a visible minority	39.6	72.7	81.1
Mother tongue	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Official language only	40.8	76.8	81.9
English	42.4	60.2	59.9
French	35.7	16.5	21.7
English and French	41.7	0.2	0.2
Non-official language only	47.8	21.2	17.0
Italian	68.2	0.5	0.2
Portuguese	45.0	0.5	0.5
German	28.3	0.4	0.7
Spanish	41.0	1.4	1.5
Chinese[2]	49.9	4.3	3.2
Punjabi	46.3	1.6	1.3
Tagalog	48.6	1.2	1.0
Arabic	40.0	1.1	1.2
Greek	72.4	0.3	0.1
Polish	54.1	0.6	0.4
Russian	49.1	0.7	0.5
Persian	57.1	1.0	0.6
Vietnamese	52.6	0.6	0.4
Hindi	43.4	0.3	0.3
Urdu	56.1	0.8	0.4
Other	47.0	5.9	4.9
Official and non-official language	55.8	2.0	1.1
Religion	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Christian	47.7	64.2	51.6
Anglican	53.3	3.9	2.5
Baptist	48.0	1.7	1.3
Catholic	47.9	38.9	31.0
Christian Orthodox	62.0	2.1	0.9
Lutheran	48.6	1.1	0.9
Pentecostal	49.6	1.5	1.1
Presbyterian	59.3	1.3	0.7
United Church	59.0	5.1	2.6
Other Christian	37.4	8.5	10.5
Non-Christian	50.3	12.0	8.7
Buddhist	55.3	1.5	0.9
Hindu	54.1	2.2	1.3
Jewish	56.2	1.3	0.7
Muslim	49.3	4.6	3.5
Sikh	50.6	1.9	1.4
Other religions	31.0	0.5	0.9
No religion	30.5	23.8	39.7
Attended school[3]	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Yes	57.1	52.1	28.7
No	33.0	47.9	71.3

The sex differential for most visible minority young adults living with their parents was similar to that found in the total population, with the proportion of co-residing young men about nine percentage points higher than that of young women (47% and 38%, respectively). Some groups, however, had a larger sex differential in their share of young men and young women co-residing with their parents (for example, among Japanese young adults, the proportion was 50% for men and 31% for women; and among Filipino young adults, the proportion was 64% for men and 47% for women) (Chart 4). There could be cultural expectations or social norms influencing members of some visible minority groups, which may encourage men, to a greater degree than women, to co-reside with their parents until either an independent household can be established or, in some cases, to have a spouse or partner join them with their parents.[21]

Majority of young adults with Italian mother tongue live with their parents

Among the proportions of young adults living with their parents, there were differences according to their mother tongue. In 2011, 48% of young adults who did not have an official language—either English or French—as their mother tongue lived with their parents, compared with 41% of those whose mother tongue was either English, French or both.

Close to 6 in 10 (56%) young adults who reported an official language mother tongue as well as a non-official mother tongue lived with their parents.

Table 1
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 who lived with their parents and distribution across ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics, 2011 (concluded)

	Percentage living with their parents	Distribution	
		living with their parents	not living with their parents
		percent	
Characteristics			
Highest education level	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
Less than a high school diploma	38.1	9.6	11.4
High school diploma	50.9	39.0	27.6
Some postsecondary education	39.7	31.4	35.0
University degree	36.1	20.1	26.0
Labour force status	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
In the labour force	40.9	78.5	83.0
Employed	39.2	66.7	75.8
Unemployed	54.5	11.8	7.3
Not in the labour force	48.2	21.5	17.0
Responsibility for household payments[4]	...	**100.0**	**100.0**
No responsibility	76.4	90.2	20.4
Some responsibility	8.3	9.8	79.6

... not applicable

1. The abbreviation n.i.e. means "not included elsewhere." It includes respondents who reported a write-in response such as Guyanese, West Indian, Tibetan, Polynesian and Pacific Islander.

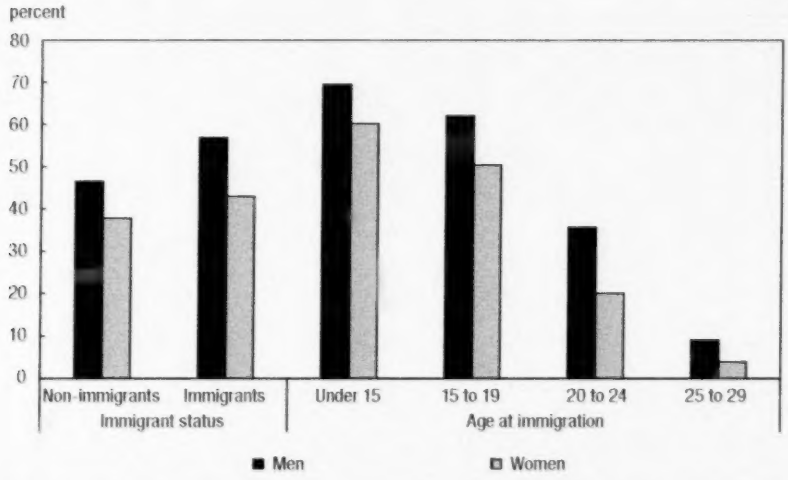
2. Chinese refers to Cantonese; Mandarin; Hakka; Taiwanese; Chaochow; Fukien; Shanghainese; and Chinese, n.o.s. (not otherwise specified).

3. Refers to attendance at a school, college, CEGEP or university at any time during the nine-month period between September 2010 and May 10, 2011.

4. Responsibility for household payments refers to whether a person residing in the household is identified in the NHS as one of the household members who pays the rent or mortgage and taxes, as well as the bills for electricity or other services or utilities. More than one person in the household may be identified as a household maintainer.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Chart 3
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 living with their parents by immigrant status, age at immigration and sex, 2011



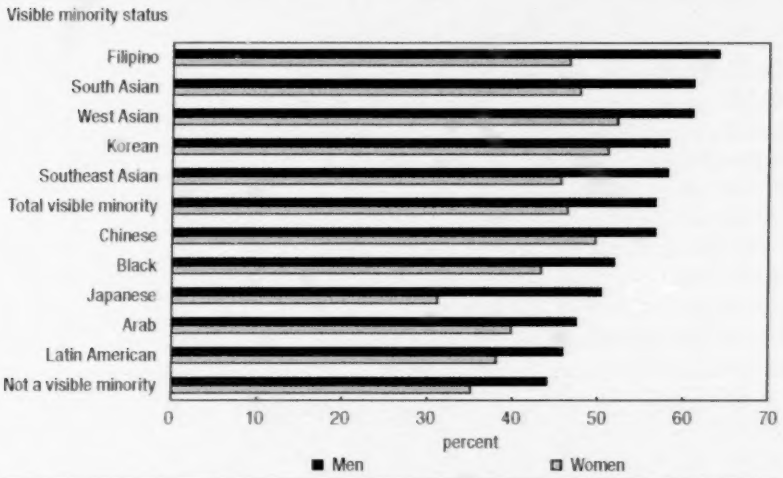
Note: Non-permanent residents not shown.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

More specifically, young adults with only a non-official mother tongue of either Greek or Italian—although they represent a small share of both young adults co-residing with their parents as well as young adults living elsewhere—lived with their parents in higher proportions. About 7 in 10 young adults aged 20 to 29 who had a Greek (72%) or Italian (68%) mother tongue lived with their parents. The proportion was also relatively high for young adults with a Persian (57%) or Urdu mother tongue (56%). In contrast, 28% of young adults with a German mother tongue lived with their parents.

The patterns held for both young men and young women, with higher proportions for young men for each particular mother tongue (Chart 5). There was a smaller sex differential for some young adults depending on mother tongue, for example, there was a three percentage point difference between Italian men and women in their twenties who co-resided with their parents (70% and 67%).

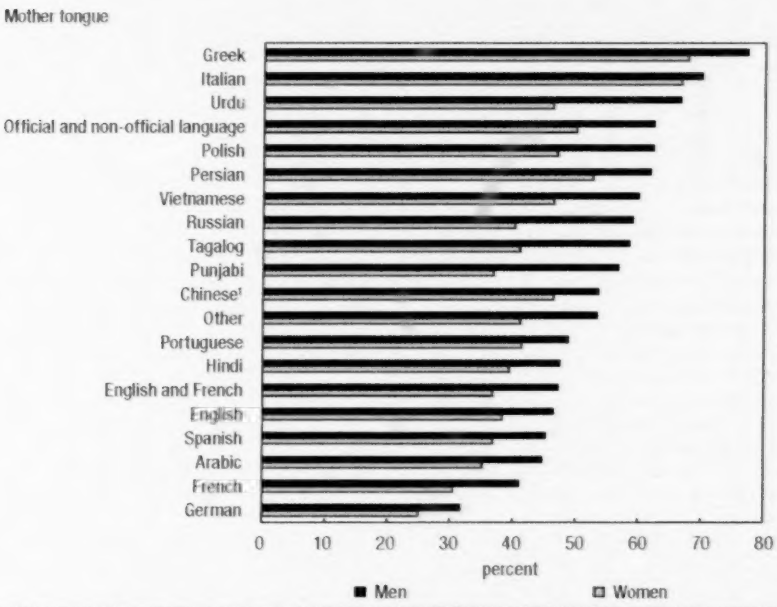
The sex differential was more pronounced among those with a Punjabi mother tongue. Overall, 46% of young adults with a Punjabi mother tongue lived with their parents—slightly above the national average—however, this ratio was higher for young men (57%) than young women (37%).[22] As indicated previously, there may be cultural reasons that influence young men from certain backgrounds to remain in the family of origin for a longer duration than young women.[23]

Chart 4
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 living with their parents, by visible minority status and sex, 2011



Note: Categories for visible minority, n.i.e. (not included elsewhere), and multiple visible minorities are not shown.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Chart 5
Proportion of the population aged 20 to 29 living with their parents, by mother tongue and sex, 2011



1. Chinese refers to Cantonese, Mandarin, Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow, Fukien, Shanghainese, and Chinese, n.o.s. (not otherwise specified).
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Living with parents most common for Christian Orthodox young adults

Religious affiliation—another indicator of the importance of cultural attributes—was also associated with the prevalence of young adults living with their parents. Given that people who regularly attend religious services are more likely to have longer relationships, lower levels of stress and often have a different perspective on family values,[24] it is not unreasonable to expect that young adults who report a religion might have different living arrangements than those who do not.

In 2011, there was little overall difference in the proportion of young adults living with their parents between those who had a Christian affiliation (48%) or other religious affiliations (50%), although both groups were overrepresented among those co-residing with their parents compared with other young adults. That is, among young adults living with their parents, 64% reported they were Christian, as did 52% of those who lived elsewhere. About 12% of young adults living with their parents reported a non-Christian religion compared with 9% who had other living arrangements.

Within specific Christian religions, the proportion of young adults who lived with their parents was highest for those who were Christian Orthodox (62%). It was also relatively high for young adults who reported their religious affiliation as Presbyterian or United Church (59% each).

Among non-Christian religions, the share of young adults who co-resided with their parents was largest for Jewish young adults (56%) in 2011. An earlier study found that among the population aged 45 and over, those who were Jewish

were least likely to be co-residential grandparents,[25] suggesting that there could be cultural norms attributing more importance to generational co-residence for the child–parent generation than for the grandchild–grandparent generation. Shares living with their parents were also above average for people in their twenties who declared an affiliation with the following religions: Buddhist (55%), Hindu (54%), Sikh (51%) and Muslim (49%).

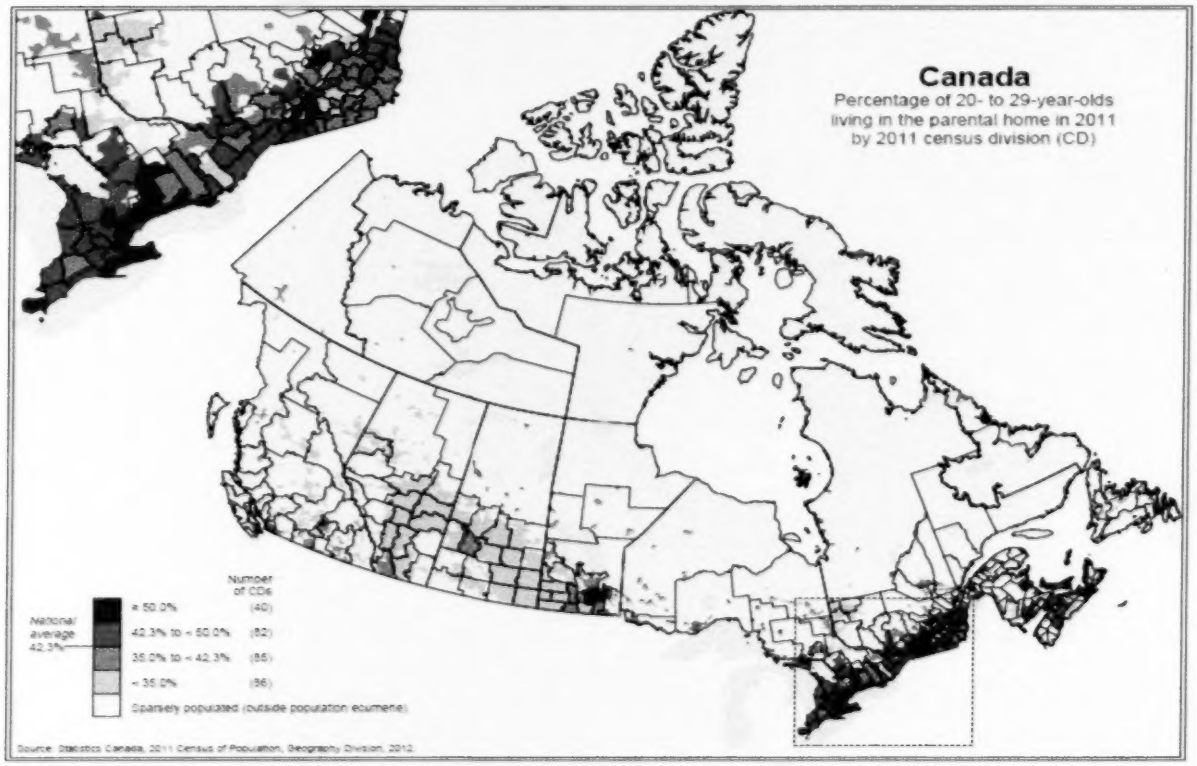
In total, 30% of young adults who reported no religion lived with their parents, lower than for any reported religion. Young adults co-residing with their parents in 2011 were also proportionally less likely to report that they did not have a religious affiliation (24%) than those who had other living arrangements (40%).

Nearly 6 in 10 young adults in Toronto live with their parents

Across Canada, there were larger shares of young adults living with their parents in the Atlantic provinces and southern Ontario, and lower proportions in the Prairie provinces, southeastern Quebec and the territories (see map below).[26] Among the provinces and territories, the highest proportion of young adults living with their parents in 2011 was in Ontario (51%), and it was lowest in Saskatchewan (30%) and Alberta (31%).

There tended to be higher proportions of young adults living with their parents in parts of the country with a relatively high cost of living, and where the shares of immigrants were high, among other possible reasons, such as attending post-secondary education. The overall share of young adults living with their parents was larger in rural areas (50%) than in large urban population areas (43%), although even these regions are characterized by variation.[27]

Most of the census metropolitan areas (CMAs)[28] with shares of young adults living with their parents higher than the national average (42%) were in Ontario, with the highest proportion in Toronto (57%).[29,30]


Canada
Percentage of 20- to 29-year-olds living in the parental home in 2011 by 2011 census division (CD)
Number of CDs
National average 42.3%
≥ 50.0% (40)
42.3% to < 50.0% (82)
35.0% to < 42.3% (86)
< 35.0% (96)
Sparsely populated (outside population ecumene)
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, Geography Division, 2012.

In fact, close to one-quarter (24%) of all young adults living with their parents in Canada were in Toronto in 2011, and 43% lived in the three largest CMAs of Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver. In comparison, one-third (33%) of adults in other living arrangements lived in the three largest CMAs (and 13% lived in Toronto). The shares of young adults living with their parents varied in the other populous CMAs, from 47% in Vancouver, 40% in Montréal and 34% in Calgary. Not all individuals living with their parents shared the same characteristics across CMAs. See *A closer look at geographical differences in parental co-residence* for additional details.

When larger shares of young adults live with their parents, this means that smaller shares are living in other arrangements, such as alone or independently in couples. For example, in Calgary, nearly comparable shares of young adults lived with their parents (34%) as lived independently in couples (31%). In contrast, while close to 6 in 10 (57%) young adults lived with their parents in Toronto, about 2 in 10 (19%) lived independently in couples.

Larger share of young adults attending school live with their parents

Having a higher education level may be increasingly important for securing a good job. There may be an expectation for parents to assist their co-residential adult children financially with the costs of a postsecondary education. Close to 6 in 10 (57%) young adults in their twenties who attended school from September 2010 to May 2011 lived with their parents, compared with 33% who did not attend school during this period.[31]

The fact that young adults attending school are more likely to stay with their parents is also reflected in the results by highest level of education. Young adults whose highest level of education was a high school diploma or equivalent had the largest share living with their parents (51%), suggesting that many of these are younger and may be pursuing a postsecondary education. The smallest share was among those who had already completed a university education (36%) and was similar to those with either some postsecondary education (40%) or less than a high school diploma (38%).

An uncertain labour market and a need for higher education may result in more young adults staying at home or returning home until they find employment that covers the expenses associated with independent living. That being said, 39% of young adults who had a job lived with their parents in 2011. This proportion was even higher among the unemployed (54%), which suggests that parents continue to be a source of emotional, financial and other sources of support while young adults are looking for a suitable job.

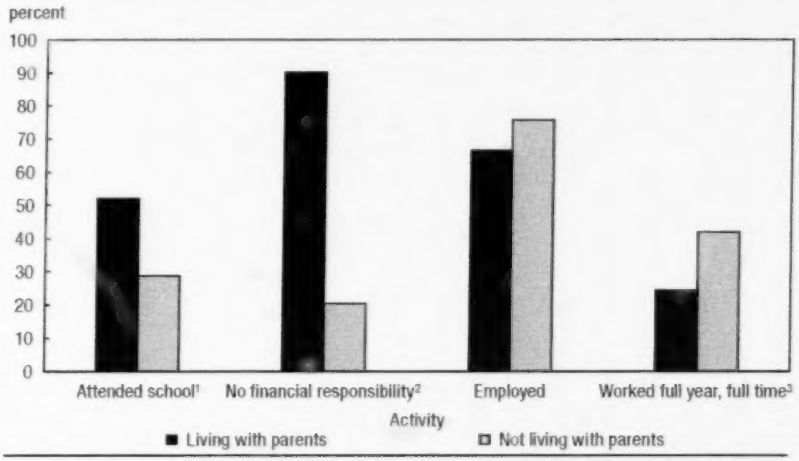
In addition, 30% of young adults aged 20 to 29 who were working full-time, full-year were living with their parents in 2011, compared with 20% in 1981.[32] Changes in the proportion of young adults who were employed full-time, full-year by immigrant status can also be observed over time, which might reflect evolving trends related to living arrangements and ethnocultural diversity. In 1981, there was little difference between immigrants and non-immigrants in the proportion of full-year and full-time workers living with their parents. In 2011, however, the proportion of young adults who were employed full-time, full-year and lived with their parents had increased to 30%, and the gap between those who were immigrants (41%) and non-immigrants (29%) had widened, providing further support there could be reasons beyond financial benefits for co-residence.

The economic circumstances of young adults may further be reflected by the patterns of individuals with some financial responsibility for the household.[33] More than three-quarters (76%) of young adults with no responsibility for household payments lived with their parents—which was higher for those in their early twenties (85%) than for those in their late twenties (60%). Among young adults with some financial responsibility, 8% lived with their parents.

Another perspective on the characteristics of young adults living with their parents can be examined by looking at the educational and work activities of those living with their parents. For example, in 2011, 52% of young adults living with their parents attended school, compared with 29% of young adults in other living arrangements (Chart 6). This supports the idea that many young adults are opting to stay with their parents for the duration of their studies.

At the same time, nearly one-quarter (24%) of young adults living with their parents in 2011 worked on a full-time, full-year basis in 2010 (compared with 42% among those who were not living with their parents), and about two-thirds (67%) were employed during the survey reference week.[34] Given that 90% of young adults living with their parents had no financial responsibility for household payments in 2011

Chart 6
Work, school and financial activities of the population aged 20 to 29, by living arrangement (living with their parents or not), 2011



1. Refers to attendance at a school, college, CEGEP or university at any time during the nine-month period between September 2010 and May 10, 2011.
2. No financial responsibility refers to a person residing in the household who was not identified in the NHS as having any responsibility for household payments, such as rent or mortgage, taxes, electricity or other services or utilities.
3. Worked 49 to 52 weeks in 2010, mostly full time (30 hours or more per week).
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

(compared with 20% of other young adults), it stands to reason that there are economic advantages to parental co-residence for young adults.[35]

Conclusion

The proportion of young adults aged 20 to 29 living with their parents has been on an overall upward trajectory for several decades. While co-residence of parents and adult children is often viewed as more advantageous to these young adults, financial, emotional or practical assistance could also flow between generations.

This study found the prevalence of young adults aged 20 to 29 living with their parents varied by ethnocultural, socioeconomic and geographic characteristics. More specifically, young adults were more likely to live with their parents if they belonged to a visible minority group, especially West Asian, Filipino, Korean or South Asian. Being a young adult living with their parents was more prevalent among those with a Christian Orthodox religion, and among immigrants who arrived before the age of 15. There were also higher proportions of young adults living with parents with a non-official mother tongue, particularly Greek and Italian. Such results raise the possibility that cultural norms and practices may be driving the results in some ethnocultural groups.

The large majority of young adults living with their parents had no financial responsibility, yet nearly one-quarter of them were working full-year and full-time. Young adults living with their parents were more likely to attend school than other young adults, and were less likely to be employed. The prevalence of young adults living with their parents also varied by region, with higher proportions in rural areas than elsewhere, although there were differences across the most populous CMAs.

Overall, in Canada today, the transition to adulthood may be seen as more fluid, and, in some cases (for example, leaving home), reversible. However, some parents may be better positioned than others to provide assistance to their adult children.

Furthermore, as the face of the Canadian population continues to change, this may influence other intergenerational, as well as multigenerational, living arrangements.

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Data sources, methods and definitions

This study uses data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) for the population of young adults aged 20 to 29. A young adult living with his or her parents is defined as the son or daughter, aged 20 to 29, of the economic family reference person. This excludes a small proportion (less than 1%) of persons aged 20 to 29 living with parents who are not the economic family reference person. For more information on economic family status, see the 2011 National Household Survey Dictionary. The 2011 NHS counted 4.3 million young adults aged 20 to 29, of which 1.8 million lived in the same home as their parents.

A closer look at geographical differences in parental co-residence

Some differences by ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics that were found at the national level were even more pronounced for certain geographies.

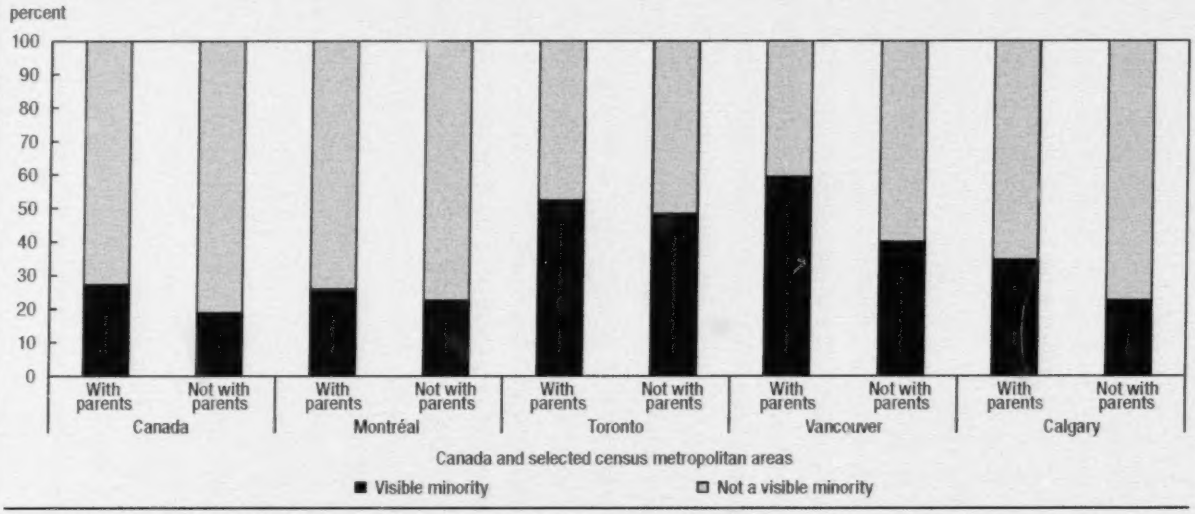
In rural areas, small proportions (just over 2%) of both young adults living with their parents and young adults in other living arrangements belonged to a visible minority group. In contrast, in large urban population centres, 38% of young adults living with their parents belonged to a visible minority group, as did 27% of young adults not living with their parents.

There were differences even within the most populous CMAs. In Vancouver, for instance, 59% of young adults living with their parents belonged to a visible minority group compared with 40% of other young adults. In contrast, in Montréal, the proportion was lower overall and there was little difference between young adults living with their parents (26%) and other young adults (23%) in their shares belonging to a visible minority group (Chart 7).

Across each of the four most populous CMAs, smaller shares of young adults living with their parents reported no religion, and larger shares reported either Christian or non-Christian religions compared with young adults with other living arrangements. The highest proportion of young adults living with their parents who reported a Christian religion was in Montréal (75%), while it was lowest in Vancouver (37%). The highest proportion of young adults sharing a home with their parents with a non-Christian religion was in Toronto (24%), double the proportion for Canada overall (12%).

In Toronto, 69% of young adults who attended school lived with their parents, compared with 58% in Vancouver, 52% in Montréal and 52% in Calgary.

Chart 7
Distribution of the population aged 20 to 29 across visible minority status, by living arrangement (living with their parents or not), Canada and selected census metropolitan areas, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Notes

1. This is based on the July 1, 2015, population estimates. See Statistics Canada (2016).
2. See Bohnert et al. (2014).
3. See Clark (2007).
4. See Hango and Le Bourdais (2007 and 2009).
5. See Milan and Bohnert (2012).
6. This is based on the economic family status definition of children of the economic family reference person. See *Data sources, methods and definitions* for more information.
7. The majority of young adults living with their parents in 2011 were unaccompanied in 2011 (96%)—that is, without a spouse, partner or children of their own—while the remainder were lone parents or part of a couple (2% each). In total, about 53,400 young adults living with their parents in 2011 also had their children living with them; the majority of these young people were lone parents (38,600) while the rest were part of a married or common-law couple (14,800).
8. Other living arrangements include young adults living with relatives, as well as children in census families whose parents are not the economic family reference person.
9. See Milan (2013).
10. See Milan et al. (2015).
11. For additional analysis on this topic, see Jeong et al. (2014).
12. One diversity characteristic that was associated with parental co-residence far less than grandparent co-residence was Aboriginal identity. The proportion of young adults with an Aboriginal identity who lived with their parents was slightly lower than the proportion for the rest of the population. Although the share of grandparents living with their grandchildren was higher for those with an Aboriginal identity, this cultural phenomenon toward co-residence did not extend to young adults living with their parents. More specifically, 37% of young adults with an Aboriginal identity lived with their parents in 2011 compared with 43% of those without an Aboriginal identity. The differences across Aboriginal identity groups were not large as they were 41% for Inuit, 37% for First Nations and 36% for Métis adults aged 20 to 29. Among young adults with an Aboriginal identity, the share who lived with their parents was higher for First Nations young adults living on reserve (45%) than for those living off reserve (32%).
13. The results of the logistic regression are available on demand.
14. In this analysis, the foreign-born population is also referred to as the immigrant population. An immigrant is a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant/permanent resident. This person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently. Some immigrants are Canadian citizens, while others are not. In the 2011 NHS, immigrants include immigrants who landed in Canada prior to May 10, 2011. Non-permanent residents are excluded from the foreign-born population. The non-immigrant population is also referred to as the Canadian-born population, although it includes a small number of people born outside Canada.
15. See Jeong et al. (2014).
16. The official name is Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
17. The visible minority population is defined by the *Employment Equity Act* as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".
18. For example, 'Iranian', 'Afghan', etc.
19. For example, 'East Indian', 'Pakistani', 'Sri Lankan', etc.
20. For example, 'Vietnamese', 'Cambodian', Malaysian', 'Laotian', etc.
21. Among young adults aged 20 to 29 living with their parents, 2% of women had a spouse or partner present in the home, whether they belonged to a visible minority group or not, while for men, 3% of those who belonged to a visible minority group had a spouse or partner in the home as did 2% of other men. The proportion was higher, however, among South Asian men in their twenties co-residing with their parents; 7% had a spouse or partner in the home, compared with 3% of young women.
22. At the national level, 47% of men in their twenties lived with their parents compared with 38% of women in this age group.
23. For women aged 20 to 29 with parents who had a Punjabi mother tongue, 4% lived with them with a spouse or partner, compared with 2% who had an official-language mother tongue. For men aged 20 to 29 with a Punjabi mother tongue who lived with their parents, 15% lived there with a spouse or partner compared with 1% who had only an official-language mother tongue.

24. See Clark (1998).

25. See Milan et al. (2015).

26. See Milan and Bohnert (2012).

27. A population centre has a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre, based on the current census population count. All areas outside population centres are classified as rural areas. Population centres are classified into three groups, depending on the size of their population: small population centres (with a population between 1,000 and 29,999); medium population centres (with a population between 30,000 and 99,999); and large urban population centres (with a population of 100,000 or more).

28. A census metropolitan area (CMA) is an area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the core. A census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000.

29. Data from the 2011 Census indicated that, in several municipalities (census subdivisions) within the Toronto CMA, over three-quarters of young adults lived with their parents in 2011, including in King (78%); Richmond Hill (77%); and Caledon, Vaughn and Pickering (76% each).

30. The CMAs with the smallest shares of young adults living with their parents were Sherbrooke, Québec (25%); Moncton, New Brunswick (27%); and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (28%).

31. This refers to attendance at a school, college, CEGEP or university. An individual's attendance could be either full time or part time (day or evening), even if the individual dropped out after registration. Attendance was counted only for courses that could be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree from a recognized educational institution (elementary or secondary school, registered apprenticeship programs, trade schools, colleges, CEGEPs and universities).

32. This refers to those who worked 49 to 52 weeks of mostly full-time hours per year. For 1981, the data for 49 to 52 weeks worked must be interpreted with caution because some respondents tended to exclude their paid leave of absence due to vacation or for other reasons from their work weeks, when in fact such leaves of absence should be included. As a result, the 49 to 52 weeks category may be understated for 1981.

33. Financial maintainer (or persons with the responsibility for household payments) refers to whether a person residing in the household is identified in the NHS as one of the household members who pays the rent or mortgage and taxes, and bills related to electricity and other services and utilities. More than one person in the household may be identified as a household maintainer.

34. The information on annual work activity is based on the year preceding the census year. It is possible that some young adults chose to return with their parents after losing their job, although the majority (about two-thirds) were working during the survey reference week.

35. Living with parents may be a more economically feasible option for some young adults. The median adjusted after-tax household income for young adults in their twenties living with their parents was $48,300, higher than that for young adults in other living arrangements ($33,400).

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